

request for conference, and the Presiding Officer appoint the following conferees: Senators GRASSLEY, ALEXANDER, HATCH, SESSIONS, LEAHY, MURRAY, and WYDEN.

WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I have fought for years to protect our Nation's seniors from abuse and exploitation—initially, in my capacity as former chairman of the Senate Aging Committee and more recently as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Last Wednesday was World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, but because the Democrats were unfortunately blocking the business of the American people on the Senate floor, I was unable to give this statement, so I want to take this opportunity today to express my renewed commitment to ending the abuse and exploitation of older Americans.

We don't know the full extent and scope of the problem of elder abuse, mainly due to underreporting.

Many older Americans don't report instances of elder abuse due to embarrassment, a refusal to acknowledge that they were victimized, or reliance on the perpetrator as their caretaker.

But we do know that serious cases of abuse or exploitation of older Americans seem to be increasing and that it can take several forms: financial, physical, and emotional.

Financial exploitation is the most widespread form of elder abuse, costing seniors in the U.S. between an estimated \$2.9 and \$36 billion annually. In fact, it is been called "the crime of the 21st century."

In my home State of Iowa, for example, so-called grandparent scams are becoming more prevalent. Fraudsters initiating a grandparent scam will present themselves to a senior citizen as a grandchild in distress, in the hope of convincing the grandparent to immediately send cash or give out a credit card number.

Another common scam in Iowa is the sweetheart scam, in which criminals cultivate a romantic relationship with a lonely elder, typically online, and then convince the senior to part with their hard-earned money.

Across the United States, con artists reportedly are also using sweepstakes scams to steal money. A senior is called and told they have won some great prize or sum of money, but before they can claim the supposed prize, the victim is required to pay taxes or processing fees. Once the money is paid to cover the taxes and fees, however, no prize ever materializes.

Other instances of elder financial exploitation are more personal in nature and have especially devastating effects. Some victims are pressured into signing over a deed, modifying a will, or giving a power of attorney. Americans have lost their farms, homes, and life savings to this form of fraud. In Iowa,

we have recently revised our laws to protect against these types of abuse, and I will be doing what I can to raise awareness to help stop this nationwide.

Physical abuse is another form of abuse that can have a devastating impact on older Americans. In fact, older Americans who experience physical abuse reportedly have a 300 percent greater chance of dying sooner.

Many older Americans may also face emotional abuse. According to the National Center on Elder Abuse, common examples of emotional abuse include treating an elder like an infant, isolating an elderly person from his or her loved ones or regular activities, and giving an older person the "silent treatment."

I have also recently become aware of instances of seniors in nursing homes who were unknowingly photographed in embarrassing and compromising situations. These photos or videos wind up on social media outlets, such as Snapchat, Facebook, and Instagram, simply so a depraved individual can get a few cheap laughs or attention.

I sent a letter to the Attorney General and the Health and Human Services inspector general on this very issue earlier this year because it remains unclear to me what specifically is being done on a Federal level to stop this form of abuse.

I have sent letters to Snapchat, Facebook, and Instagram to better understand what efforts they have taken to help prevent this form of abuse of nursing home residents. And I wrote to the American Health Care Association to inquire about the efforts, if any, that nursing homes have taken to prevent this activity.

I also recently called upon the Justice Department to detail the steps it is taking to protect seniors from financial exploitation. I have asked the Department what it is doing to combat government imposter scams that are bilking millions of dollars out of the pockets of older Americans.

Combating elder abuse and exploitation requires all of us to work together in a bipartisan way. To this end, I will convene a Judiciary Committee hearing later this month on the subject of elder financial exploitation.

This hearing will give us a chance to examine whether the Federal Government is doing all it can to prevent older Americans from being victimized and to ensure that perpetrators are held accountable. We also will hear from State officials on how to best educate older Americans about the ever-changing forms of elder abuse and financial exploitation.

Local, State, and Federal law enforcement agencies are on the front lines in responding to crimes of elder abuse. For this reason, I would like to take a moment to highlight the efforts of the many adult protective service units, local prosecutors, and other practitioners across the country who have helped bring the perpetrators to justice.

I would also like to recognize family, friends, and caretakers who report instances of elder abuse and help their communities better understand the nature of this problem.

In closing, I invite my colleagues to use World Elder Abuse Awareness Day as an opportunity to highlight the problem of elder abuse and to rededicate efforts to protect our Nation's seniors. These men and women are our fathers and mothers, sisters and brothers, mentors and friends. They are the fabric of our country and communities, our greatest generation, and we owe it to them to protect their dignity in their golden years.

Thank you.

REMEMBERING GEORGE VOINOVICH

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, George Voinovich served in this body as the Senator from Ohio from 1999 until 2010. Senator Voinovich was a friend of mine, and I think our colleagues would agree with me that he was among the most respected members of this body. He was respected for his thoughtfulness, for his humility, for his self-effacing nature.

It is sometimes said that the Senate is composed of 100 prospective Presidents of the United States, each of whom is just waiting for the American people to recognize their unappreciated talents. That concept did not apply to George Voinovich. It is not that he was not well prepared to assume the highest office in the land; George Voinovich simply chose to make his contribution in a different way.

George Voinovich was one of the most prepared people ever to serve in the Senate. He was responsible for the turnaround of the city of Cleveland; elected as a Republican mayor in a Democratic town. He served as Lieutenant Governor and Governor the State of Ohio. He was elected by his peers first to the role of president of the National League of Cities and subsequently to chair the National Governors Association.

In the Senate, he contributed significantly to the work of the Foreign Relations Committee, the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, the Environment and Public Works Committee, and the Appropriations Committee.

This was a "workhorse" not a "show horse." For a politician, he was deliberately the "unpolitician." An individual who built a reputation on his efforts and accomplishments and not on his press releases. Approachable and grassroots as they come, which is especially an admirable quality in one who represents a large State. It bears repeating: "a self-effacing and humble man."

George Voinovich was one of the most principled people ever to serve in this body. He was profoundly independent in his thinking. He was frugal in both his policy and in his personal

lives. He was a family man—in fact, an individual prone to public displays of affection. Completely devoted to his wife, Janet, his children, and his grandchildren. He was a pillar of the Cleveland community, proud of his ethnic heritage and a role model for immigrants. George Voinovich was the children of immigrants, and his career demonstrates how far one can go in this great Nation through hard work and character. He was a profoundly ethical individual, chosen by his Senate colleagues to lead the Senate Ethics Committee. He epitomized the way the Senate should be.

Senator Voinovich's loss is not only a loss for Ohio, but a loss to the Nation. For even in retirement, Senator Voinovich had much to contribute to the public discourse. Days before his death, he was out making speeches. He never slowed down. He was expected to serve as a delegate to the 2016 Republican National Convention in his beloved Cleveland.

So let me take this opportunity on behalf of the people of Alaska to thank Janet for sharing George with the Nation. I express condolences to the entire Voinovich family.

The Voinovich family also includes Senator Voinovich's former staff members, some of whom are still part of our Senate family. I would like to personally express condolences to Tara Shaw, who served Senator Voinovich on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. After Senator Voinovich's retirement, Tara came to my office in the role of legislative director and currently serves as legislative director to the Senator from Wyoming, Mr. ENZI. Great Senators groom great staff members. And George Voinovich was one great Senator.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID WEINER

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, today, along with my colleague, the ranking member of the Budget Committee, Senator SANDERS, I wish to honor and recognize the outstanding service of David Weiner on his retirement after 32 years of public service, including 25 years at the Congressional Budget Office. David's expertise as a forecaster, modeler, and policy analyst have made him an invaluable contributor to the development of much of the key tax legislation of the past quarter century, starting with the Tax Reform Act of 1986. Since 2013, David has led CBO's tax analysis division, superbly overseeing its forecasts of tax revenues, cost estimates of legislative proposals, reports on important current issues in tax policy, and development of the modeling infrastructure needed to conduct those tasks.

David's first job in Washington was as an evaluator at the U.S. General Accounting Office. He then moved to the Office of Tax Analysis in the Department of Treasury, where he constructed models to estimate revenue effects and produce economic analyses

of numerous tax proposals, including those related to capital gains, corporate tax integration, and taxpayer compliance. At Treasury and later at CBO, David was also responsible for the forecasts of individual income tax receipts. CBO was very fortunate in 1991 when David brought his skills to the agency, where he built and maintained microsimulation models used for forecasting receipts and analyzing changes in the distribution of tax burdens. He also wrote influential studies on critical topics in tax policy, including marriage penalties and bonuses in the tax system and effective Federal tax rates. In the tax analysis division, David served as the unit chief for modeling from 2002 to 2009, Deputy Assistant Director from 2009 to 2013, and Assistant Director for the rest of his tenure at CBO.

As head of the tax analysis division, David has led his staff in providing high-quality and timely analysis of tax policy and budget issues. His expansive knowledge of tax policy and how it interacts with other facets of public policy has been a tremendous resource to the Congress. Colleagues who have worked with David appreciate his uncanny ability to find solutions to challenges and his commitment to producing top-caliber analyses but they will especially miss his wit, his generosity with his time and knowledge, and his compassion.

I know my colleagues join me in extending our thanks and appreciation to David for his service to our Nation. We wish him well in his retirement from CBO and hope he will continue in future years to lend his expertise to the analysis of important tax policy issues.

I would like to now yield to my colleague Senator SANDERS for his remarks.

Mr. SANDERS. I thank Mr. ENZI and join him in commending Mr. Weiner for his many years of dedicated and outstanding service to CBO, the Congress, and the American people. Through his diligence and hard work, he has more than earned additional time for biking, training for the annual Washington Post hunt, and most importantly, for his family—his wife, Joan, and his sons, Kevin, Daniel, and Eric.

We hope our colleagues will join us in thanking Mr. Weiner for his service.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DARIN GORDON

• Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I request that a copy of my letter to Darin Gordon, TennCare director and deputy commissioner of the Tennessee Health Care Finance Administration, be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows:

TRIBUTE TO DARIN GORDON

I am writing to express my sincere appreciation for your service as director of TennCare over the past 10 years.

As the state's longest-serving TennCare director and the longest-serving Medicaid di-

rector in the country, you have helped transition our state's Medicaid program from being one of Tennessee's biggest budget headaches to being consistently ranked as one of the nation's most fiscally responsible.

As Governor of Tennessee, I saw firsthand the impact that runaway health care costs can have on other important state programs—like higher education and roads and bridges. For the past ten years, you have worked tirelessly to restrain unnecessary state spending on TennCare and have developed innovative solutions to increase patient access and satisfaction. Your leadership has proven that you understand how critical it is for the state to get health care costs under control, and I'm also impressed with what you've been able to accomplish under both a Democratic and Republican governor.

Medicaid spending is on track to double over the next ten years. Congress needs advice on growing entitlement programs from experienced leaders like you because you understand the challenges states are facing and how the federal role has contributed to the increases in state spending related to Medicaid.

You have led TennCare through challenging times and have been instrumental in helping the state modernize its Medicaid delivery system. I thank you for your service to Tennesseans and your willingness to work with me and my staff to help advance good Medicaid policies and avoid Washington mandates.

I wish you the best as you continue your professional career.

Very best wishes. •

GREENFIELD'S 225TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Greenfield, NH—a flourishing community in Hillsborough County that is celebrating the 225th anniversary of its founding. I am proud to join citizens across the Granite State in recognition of this special event.

Greenfield originally encompassed parts of the towns of Peterborough and Lyndeborough, as well as the Lyndeborough Slip and Society Land until the residents petitioned the General Court of New Hampshire to become a separate town, so that they might have access to a church and school. Permission was granted, and the town of Greenfield was incorporated on June 15, 1791.

Founded primarily by Revolutionary War veterans, the town of Greenfield was named by Major Amos Whittemore for its peaceful and fertile location between the Monadnock Hills. The early settlers were known for growing hops, building carriages, and their many sawmills. The first townhall meeting was held at the house of Mr. Daniel Gould on July 5, 1791, and since that time, the population has grown to include 1,477 residents as of the year 2014.

Known for its mountainous terrain, Greenfield is home to North Pack Monadnock and Crotched Mountains. Due to the prevalence of the mountains, the town contains an abundance of scenic trails that travel throughout the region. This has made Greenfield the perfect venue for all kinds of recreational outdoor activities.